

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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TAGS: AORG, APER, UN (UNIDO)

SUBJ: UN PERSONEL: APPOINTMENT DIRECTOR OF ADMIN,
CONF AND GEN SERVICES (UNIDO)

REF: (A) USUN 372; (B) STATE 023939

(C) USUN 429

SUMMARY : MISOFF DISCUSSED APPOINTMENT OF AMB BURNS TO
SUBJECT POST WITH USYG DAVIDSON AND LEARNED UNIDO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ABDEL-RAHMAN LIKELY TO FIGHT APPOINT-
MENT AND THUS INSITGATE DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH SYG.
ACTION ON BURNS CANDIDATURE MUST AWAIT RETURN OF SYG AND
DECISION BY HIM TO PRESS FORWARD IN FACE OF EXPECTED
RESISTANCE BY ABDEL-RAHMAN. WHILE NO SLIPPAGE APPARENT
YET, MATTER WILL REQUIRE CLOSE MONITORING BY USUN AND
USMISSION TO UNIDO.

1. MISOFF MET WITH USYG DAVIDSON FEB 21 PRIMARILY TO
DISCUSS STATUS OF APPOINTMENT AMB BURNS TO SUBJECT POST.
AT DAVIDSON'S REQUEST, MISOFF DREW ON REFTTEL(A) IN ORDER
PROVIDE DAVIDSON WITH BACKGROUD EARLIER DISCUSSION
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BETWEEN AMB SCALI AND BENNETT AND SYG. DAAVIDSON SAID HE HAD
SICU DISCUSSED WITH KITTANI ON FEB 18 SUBSTANCE OF THIS MEETING,
POINT WHICH WAS CONVEYED TO MISOFF EARLIER BY
KITTANI.

2. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL (A) DAVIDSON'S VERSION OF DEVELOPMENTS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN THAT CONVEYED BY SYG TO AMB SCALI. MAJOR POINT MADE BY DAVIDSON WAS THAT PRIOR HIS LEAVING FOR SOVIET UNION, HE DISCUSSED UNIDO APPOINTMENTS WITH ABDEL-RAHMAN (A-R) WITH UNDERSTANDING NO ACTION WLD BE TAKEN ON ANY TOP-LEVEL UNIDO APPOINTMENTS UNTIL DAVIDSON RETURNED AND HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS A-R'S PROPOSALS WITH USUN. WHILE ADMITTING HE SUPPORTED APPOINTMENT OF BARBOSA (BRAZIL) TO REPLACE BIRCKHEAD, DAVIDSON SAID HE MADE POINT TO A-R THAT IF THIS APPOINTMENT MADE (AS WELL AS AN AMERICAN TO REPLACE STEPANEK) IT WOULD BE NECESSARY PROVIDE FOR AN AMERICAN IN UNIDO AT D-2 LEVEL SINCE UNLIKELY US WLD ACCEPT LOSS OF D-2 POST. DAVIDSON WAS ASSURED BY A-R THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH SYG THESE POINTS WLD BE MADE AND MATTER BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL DAVIDSON'S RETURN. IN RESPONSE TO MISOFF'S QUERY RE HOW TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYG'S AND DAVIDSON'S VERSION OF DEVELOPMENTS, DAVIDSON OFFERED THAT WHILE HE PERSONALLY WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT HANDLE PERSONNEL MATTERS ON OBJECTIVE AND EQUITABLE BASIS, SYG'S APPROACH WAS TO TREAT ALL TOP-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS AS POLITICAL QUESTION AND TO MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON EXTENT TO WHICH APPOINTMENTS WLD PROVIDE SYG POLITICAL LEVERAGE WITH VARIOUS DELEGATIONS. FURTHERMORE, DAVIDSON SAID THAT SYG TENDED OFFER SECRETARIAT APPOINTMENTS IN RESPONSE DEMARCHES BY DELEGATIONS ON PERSONNEL AND OTHER QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO WHOEVER WAS "MOST RECENT CALLER" AND "GAMED" THE MAINTENANCE OF POLITICAL BENEFIT BY OFFERING SECRETARIAT POST(S). POSSIBILITY A-R HIMSELF WAS "GAMING" WAS NOT DISMISSED BY DAVIDSON WHO, IN FACT, SAID A-R HAD HIS OWN AXES TO GRIND AND WOULD USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO SCHEME TO ACCOMMODATE HIS OWN OBJECTIVES. IT APPARENT, DAVIDSON SAID, ABOVE-MENTIONED TWO FACTORS CAME TOGETHER, WHICH RESULTED IN AGREEMENT BY SYG TO A-R'S REQUEST PUT BARBOSA IN BIRCHHEAD'S POST.

3. IN DAVIDSON'S OPINION, BARBOSA WAS QUALIFIED FOR SUBJECT POST AND IT UNFORTUNATE THAT HE WAS NOW BLOCKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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FROM GETTING THIS APPOINTMENT. IN REPLY, MISOFF IN STRONGEST TERMS REITERATED EXPECTATION OF USG THAT AMB BURNS WOULD BE GIVEN APPOINTMENT AND MADE ARGUMENT THAT ONLY INDIVIDUAL WITH QUALIFICATIONS SUCH AS BURNS WOULD HAVE ANY CHANCE OF BRINGING ABOUT IMPROVEMENT IN UNIDO'S SERIOUS MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AND BE ABLE STAND UP TO A-R. DAVIDSON IMMEDIATELY CONCEDE MISOFF'S POINT AND ADMITTED BARBOSA, AS UNDERLING TO A-R FOR NUMBER OF YEARS, COULD NOT BE EXPECTED PERFORM SUCH ROLE WHICH ADMITTEDLY ESSENTIAL. HOWEVER, DAVIDSON SAID THAT WITH APPOINTMENT OF BURNS ONE MUST EXPECT "EYEBALL TO EYEBALL" CONFRONTATION SINCE A-R WILL

STRONGLY RESIST ANY CHALLENGE TO HIS ALMOST DICTATORIAL RULE WITHIN UNIDO, MISOFF ASSURED DAVIDSON AMB BURNS NOT ONLY FULLY QUALIFIED BUT QUITE ABLE HOLD HIS OWN WITH A-R IF THIS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN UNIDO ITSELF. DAVIDSON CONCLUDED BY SAYING THIS IS TYPE OF PERSON UNIDO NEEDS AND IT BE BENEFICIAL OT UNIDO, BUT THERE SHOULD BE NO ILLUSIONS THAT A-R LIKELY RESENT ANY ENCROACHMENT ON HIS TURF.

4. DAVIDSON CONFIRMED TO MISOFF HE NOW FULLY ACCEPTED SYG'S DECISION HAVE AMERICA REPLACE BIRCHHEAD AND, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM SYG, HE MADE CONCERTED EFFORT BY PHONE FROM GENEVA GET A-R TO ACCEPT THIS EVENTUALITY BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. DURING PHONE DISCUSSIO, DAVIDSON SAID A-R GAVE EVERY INDICATION HE WOULD STRONGLY RESIST HAVING BURNS OR ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL IMPOSED ON HIM SINCE HE (A-R) COULD NOT WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS HE DID NOT KNOW PERSONALLY AND IN WHOM HE DID NOT HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE. WHEN MISOFF QUERIED DAVIDSON ON WHAT THIS MEANT. DAVIDSON SAID SITUATION SHAPING UP TO MAJOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN WALDHEIM AND A-R WITH LIKELIHOOD A-R WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT RALLY SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITION PRIOR TO CONFRONTING SYG. IN DAVIDSON'S OPINION, PENDING APPOINTMENT OF BURNS WAS EXCUSE BY A-R BRING TO HEAD CONTINUING BATTLE OVER PLACE OF UNIDO WITHIN UN AND AUTHORITY OF A-R VIS-A-VIS SYG. AS TO LIKELY OUTCOME, DAVIDSON SAID HE WOULD NOT MAKE PREDICTION SINCE A-R IS MASTER IN-FIGHTER AND UNCERTAINTY OVER WHETHER SYG WOULD HOLD HIS GROUND AND IMPOSE APPOINTMENT OF BURNS ON A-R .

5. IN RESPONSE MISOFF QUESTION WHEN FORMAL OFFER OF APPOINTMENT LIKELY TO BE MADE TO BURNS, DAVIDSON SAID NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ACTION BE TAKEN UNTIL SYG'S RETURN EARLY NEXT MONTH FROM AFRICA. WHILE DAVIDSON SAID HE PLANNED CALL A-R AGAIN THIS WEEK TO ATTEMPT BRING HIM AROUND TO ACCEPTING BURNS' APPOINTMENT, HE FELT FURTHER EFFORT ON HIS PART BE UNSUCCESSFUL. THAT BEING SO, AND FACT A-R UNLIKELY TO SUBMIT BURNS' CANDIDATUREAN SYG WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT IT TO UN APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BOARD ON HIS OWN BEHALF AND WITHOUT A-R'S INVOLVEMEMT. DAVIDSON WILL TAKE UP MATTER WITH SYG IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN AND ACT ACCORDING TO SYG'S INSTRUCTIONS.

6. COMMENT: THERE IS NO INDICATION OF SLIPPAGE IN OBTAINING BURNS' APPOINTMENT BUT FINAL DECISION APPEARS TO REST SOLELY WITH SYG. GIVEN FACT SCALI SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN APPOINTMENT OF BURNS, THERE IS NO REASON BELIEVE SYG WILL DOWNPLAY SCALI'S REPRESENTATION. HOWEVER, IF A-R MAKES THIS TEST OF HIS STRENGTH VIS-A-VIS WALDHEIM AND HAS STRONG SUPPORT BEHIND HIM, WE CANNOT BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN SYG WILL HOLD HIS GROUND. SITUATION WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL CONITORING BY USUN AND US MISSION UNIDO. IF ANY SLIPPAGE APPEARS BE DEVELOPING, MISSION

INTENDS WADE IN AND HOLD GROUND COMPLETELY. ONE FACTOR
HERETOFORE UNMENTIONED IS HOW UN SPECIAL REVIEW GROUP,
WHICH ARM OF APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION BOARD,
LIEKLY REACT IF BURNS' CANDIDATURE PLACED BEFORE IT
BY SYG WITHOUT A-R CONCURRENCE. IF A-R MAKES ALL-OUT
FIGHT, WE CAN EXPECT HIM TO GET TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF GRUUP
IN EFFORT GET APPOINTMENT BLOCKED; WHILE EFFORTS BY A-R
IN THIS VEIN PROBABLY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL, POSSIBILITY DOES
EXIST. THEREFORE, MISSION INTENDS DISCUSS MATTER WITH
USYG MORESE, MEMBER OF GRUUP, UPON HIS RETURN FROM AFRICA.
BENNETT

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